

REMARKS

Claims 17-30 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of October 18, 2007, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As claims 1-16 have been cancelled, this rejection is now moot. It is believed that new claims 17-30 make it clear that the chemically modifying layer is on the electrostatic layer.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by Pantano, U.S. 6,916,541.

As claims 1-16 have been cancelled, this rejection is now moot.

With respect to claim 17-30, it should be noted that Pantano discloses using silane compounds for the electrostatic layer, which is not the case in the herein claimed supports.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schwartz, U.S. 6,911,535.

As claims 1-16 have been cancelled, this rejection is now moot with respect to claims 1 and 3-9.

With respect to new claims 17-39, Schwartz discloses that the surface is modified to possess either neutral, cationic or anionic groups or a combination of neutral, anionic and/or cationic moieties. The surface or the presently claimed support is limited to a positively charged electrostatic layer. Moreover, the presently claimed support includes a chemically modified layer on the electrostatic layer, not on the substrate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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